

House Resolution 1243

By: Representatives Benfield of the 85th, Oliver of the 83rd, Abrams of the 84th, and Ashe of the 56th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Gibson "Nibs" Stroupe; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Reverend Gibson "Nibs" Stroupe was born in Memphis, Tennessee in 1946, and
3 grew up in Helena, Arkansas; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he graduated valedictorian from Central High School in 1964, and went on to
5 Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in
6 Philosophy in 1968; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he attended Columbia Theological Seminary and graduated first in his class
8 with a Masters Degree in Divinity in 1975; and
- 9 WHEREAS, he married Reverend Caroline Leach in 1974, and together they raised a son and
10 a daughter; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he was ordained in 1975 and served churches in Norfolk and Nashville,
12 Tennessee before coming to Oakhurst Presbyterian Church in Decatur, Georgia in 1983,
13 where he and his wife have been pastors for over 24 years; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Oakhurst Presbyterian Church is a nationally recognized leader in multicultural
15 ministry, and in 2003 it was named one of 300 Excellent Protestant Congregations in the
16 United States by a Lilly-based study; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Reverend Stroupe has served as moderator of Greater Atlanta Presbytery,
18 commissioner to the general assembly, member of various Presbytery committees, and he
19 currently coordinates Presbytery's Committee to Combat Racism; and
- 20 WHEREAS, he has led workshops on racism for over 60 groups, including Thornwell Home
21 for Children, Greater Atlanta Presbytery, Coastal Carolina Presbytery, National Council of

1 Churches, Presbyterian Women, Synod of the Living Waters, Presbytery of New Hope, the
2 Lutheran Church of South Carolina, and the Mennonite Church; and

3 WHEREAS, he has authored many magazine articles and written three books, including
4 *While We Run This Race* which was the winner of the Gustavus Myers Award in 1996 for
5 Outstanding Book on Human Rights; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2007, he was inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr., Board of
7 Peacemakers at Morehouse College, and in 2008 he was named Peacemaker of the Year for
8 the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
10 the members of this body join in recognizing Reverend Gibson "Nibs" Stroupe for his many
11 years of service to his faith, his community, and our state.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
13 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Gibson "Nibs"
14 Stroupe.